

Civil Affairs Team Improving Life in Central Baghdad

By Spc. Jan Critchfield

122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq- A loan of nearly \$2.5 million to a local Iraqi entrepreneur by the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion is expected to increase food production here, as well as create more jobs for the local populace.

Karadah district businessman Abdul Wahid Al-Sa'ady currently owns a plastics factory and hopes to use the loan to diversify by starting a food production service similar to the one he ran before the 1991 Iraq War. The loan should double the number of Al-Sa'ady's employees, improving the local economy, according to Capt. George Angle, assistant team leader for Team 3, B Company, 478th CA Bn. He said there's another benefit to stimulating the local economy.

"If we're able to go out and find projects that stimulate the economy, it . . . takes idle time off [Iraqis'] hands when they could be influenced by some of the militia groups initiating attacks against US forces," Angle said.

Al-Sa'ady is one of



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

Two Iraqi children haul off the goods gleaned from a box full of toys delivered by B Company, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion's 3rd Team. Delivering clothing and toys is a regular mission for the 478th, helping to make the lives of young Iraqis a little brighter.

Karadah's most successful businessmen. One issue facing him is that squatters have taken over some of his factory buildings, occupying space that

could be used by his food production business. Al-Sa'ady's proposed solution is to construct an apartment complex to house the families staying in

his buildings. This is a separate project that would require considerable coalition assistance and local government coordi-

Continued on Page 2

Iraqi Children Get New Place to Swing in Al-Jadida

By 1st Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

A new playground in an Al-Jadida neighborhood gives the local Iraqi children a place to swing and play on a variety of playground equipment. Task Force Stallion, 1st Cavalry Division, built the playground

and is dedicated to improving the neighborhoods. This is the only playground in the area, so this new park is a benefit to them. This new park is only a first of many projects intended to improve the area.

In addition to the play-

ground, TF Stallion is planning to clean up the trash and improve the electricity in the Al-Jadida area.

"We plan on cleaning one muhalla at a time and then maintaining the cleanliness by employing local Iraqis," 2nd Lt. Jeff Wright, 2nd Battalion,

8th Cavalry Regiment, said.

The task force also has many other plans for Al-Jadida.

"We plan on improving local clinics, roads, and completing the renovation on the few schools that still need work," Wright said.



Hero of the Week

Keeps the First Team's Attack Helicopters in the Air

**By 4th Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs**

Sgt. Troy Fults' sole mission in the Army is to maintain and repair attack helicopters and make sure they fly. Currently serving in Iraq with the 4th Aviation "Warrior" Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, he is the heart of the helicopter.

Fults is an AH-64 Apache helicopter crew chief assigned to Company A, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, earning the company's nickname of 'Avengers' on a daily basis.

The 'Warrior' Brigade cannot function without its avi-

ation assets. Fults, a native of Cleveland, Texas, ensures that combat power is always available by providing critical maintenance support. His impeccable maintenance allowed the brigade's AH-64 Apaches to fly over 1,900 hours without accident or incident due to maintenance since arriving in theater.

Fults also conducts major maintenance inspections called "phase inspections" during a very compressed time schedule. By conducting 24-hour operations, his team completed these inspections in half the

time it took at Fort Hood, Texas.

"We can fix them just as fast as we can get the parts," Fults said.

Fults is a significant combat multiplier in many ways. In addition to the phase maintenance he provides, he stands ready to repair aircraft at a moment's notice and get them back into flying condition.

Every day, Fults is making a difference for the First Team. Without his support and the support of the many other Apache crew chiefs in his company, the aircraft would not be

SGT Troy
Fults



4th Aviation
Brigade

able to fly the number of hours that they do.

"[The] game is on, and we get faster and better every day," Fults said.

And with the number of attacks by anti-coalition forces increasing, it is those attack helicopters that the Soldiers on the ground rely on to come to the rescue when necessary.

Providing Humanitarian Assistance, Helping Iraqi People



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

Maj. Daniel Hassig of the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion hands a box of toys and clothing to an employee of a central Baghdad orphanage. Providing such humanitarian assistance is routine for the 478th, whose job it is to improve the quality of life of those Iraqis living in the 1st Cavalry Division's area of operation.

Continued from Page 1
nation.

In addition to working with local leaders in the Karadah district on improving the economy, the 478th recently arranged a donation of fire-resistant suits and helmets to the Karadah Fire Department.

Currently, the 478th is in the process of assessing the needs of one of only three maternity hospitals that operate in Iraq, and is working with the Overseas Disaster Humanitarian Civic Assistance Fund to

meet the hospital's needs.

The 478th also works with area schools, delivering donations of books and school supplies. Angle said improving area schools will have huge implications for the future of Iraq.

"Literacy is paramount to any culture," he said. "With the new democracy it is very important for everyone to be able to read and understand such a document [as the new Iraqi constitution]. This is a wonderful opportunity to be here and help the Iraqi people."



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Olympia Women Deal with Deployment, Will Run Half-Marathon

► From *The Olympian*

OLYMPIA, Wash.- Days after their husbands were sent to Iraq, Janene LeMay, Debbie DiRocco and Janice Kern started training for their first half-marathon.

"We needed something to do that was productive and had a purpose," said LeMay of Lacey. Their husbands left for Iraq in January.

The three women, along with Sharon Olson, whose husband was sent to Iraq in November, are training together to run in Sunday's Capital City half-marathon in Olympia.

Love of running and a shared military connection brought the women together.

As wives of attorneys who work for the Judge Advocate General's Office on Fort Lewis, LeMay, DiRocco and Kern already had a connection. Then they found out they all liked to run. When another JAG wife and avid runner, Barb Merriam of Olympia, asked them to train with her for the half-marathon, a running group was born.

LeMay, DiRocco and Kern — none of whom had done any distance running — said knowing their husbands were leaving spurred their decision to do the 13.1-mile race.

The support comes from afar, too. The husbands in Iraq get updates, via e-mail, of the runners' progress and e-mail

back their praises and advice.

The four JAG spouses started weekly runs on the Chehalis Western Trail and were joined by two others: LeMay's neighbor Sharon Olson, whose husband, Maj. Rodney Olson, is in Iraq with the 1-37 Field Artillery battalion of the Stryker brigade; and Merriam's neighbor Marnie Holder, whose husband, Staff Sgt. Jason Bart Holder, is an optometry technician at Madigan Army Medical Center.

What started as a running group soon became a support group, especially for the four women whose husbands are in Iraq.

"Our home states are all different, our husbands are different ranks ... But in spite of all those differences, our big connection is that the husbands are deployed and we're just giving each other support," said Kern, 43, of Lacey.

Merriam said her husband, Capt. John "JJ" Merriam, leaves for Iraq in August. "So I can relate to what they're going through, and they're going to be able to relate to what I'm going through when he leaves."

DiRocco said she thinks her husband, Capt. Scott DiRocco, who is stationed in Taji, Iraq, might be a little envious of her. DiRocco said her husband runs "only when he



The Olympian

Wives of Soldiers recently deployed to Iraq have found a means of coping with the deployment by training to run in the Capital City half-marathon in Olympia on Sunday.

has to."

"I actually think that he's a little jealous of the mileage that I'm at," said DiRocco, 32, who said she never ran more than three miles before the training. "Maybe he's a little surprised and proud of me."

The husbands in Iraq have the comfort of knowing their wives are taking care of themselves and each other, LeMay said.

"So they don't have to worry so much about us, and they can do their jobs. I think that's really important for them to be able to concentrate on their jobs and not have to worry about if things are falling apart at home."

Last Thursday, LeMay, Kern, DiRocco and Olson met on the Chehalis Western Trail for their final group run before race day. Looking fit in their matching yellow tank tops decorated with the U.S. flag, they discussed how many miles they would run.

Merriam is the only one in the group whose husband will be cheering the women on at the race. Four husbands will be in Iraq, and Holder's husband, the optometry technician, will be on a humanitarian mission in Thailand.

Their husbands will be in their thoughts when they cross the finish line Sunday, the women said.

Have Package - Will Deliver

Have a package to mail home? Need a money order? You're in luck! The new Victory North APO is up and fully operational. (located next to the new Division Chapel)

Hours of operation: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m to 5 p.m., Saturday - Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday

High: 100
Low: 74



Thursday

High: 98
Low: 72



Friday

High: 102
Low: 75



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office

Today in History

May 12

► From historychannel.com

1937 George VI and Lady Elizabeth are crowned king and queen of the United Kingdom at London's Westminster Abbey
 1938 The Adventures of Robin Hood premieres at New York's Radio City Music Hall
 1949 Berlin blockade lifted by the Soviet Union
 1957 A.J. Foyt won his first major race, a midget car race in Kansas City, Mo.
 1961 Vice President Lyndon Johnson visits South Vietnam, meets with South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem in Saigon during his tour of Asian countries
 1964 Barbra Streisand wins the Grammy Award for Best Female Vocalist for *The Barbra Streisand Album*
 1970 The Senate confirms President Richard Nixon's nomination of Federal Circuit Judge Harry Blackmun to the Supreme Court

Harker Heights Golfer Deals with Missed Opportunities

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*

AUSTIN, Texas- It was the round filled with "wouldas", "couldas" and "shouldas."

For Harker Heights stand-out golfer Josh Bales, Monday's UIL State Tournament opening-round 79 at the par-71 Roy Kizer Golf Course had several opportunities to be reduced, but by the almighty power of the golf gods, it just wasn't meant to be.

Granted, a 79 is the type of score 99 percent of the solar system would take any day of the week, but in a field as elite as those in attendance, his 8-over-par score puts the senior several shots behind the individual leaders.

Take team leader Highland Park, for example, which had scores of 66, 68, 70 and 70 for its team total of 274. In addition to those impressive numbers, Wichita Falls' Matt Olaya and Dustin Garza of Mission Sharyland each carded a 69 with an array of flawless execution and a dash of luck thrown into the mix.

Paul Haley shot the 5-under-par 66 to take a two-stroke lead over teammate Scott Barton.

Bales had several outstanding shots, but for the entire four-hour trek around the course there were also missed opportunities.

"Sometimes when the shots aren't going exactly where you want them and you're not feeling exactly the way you want to feel, it's hard to shoot a low score," HHHS coach Dave Westfall said. "It's easy to turn a 75 into an 80."

"What's tough is when you feel like that, to try and turn an 80 into a 75. That's what he needs to figure out how to get done."

Starting on the back nine, Bales opened with par-bogey-par-bogey before carding a costly double-bogey on his fifth hole (No. 14), which

included a lip-out on a 12-inch putt.

To Bales' credit, he regrouped and birdied his next hole, a 137-yard par-3 thanks to a nice iron shot and a drained 10-footer.

Showing extended solid play, Bales parred his next six holes, but had four good birdie opportunities that somehow grazed the lip of the hole, but did not fall.

After that, some trouble in Bales' short game resulted in four bogeys in the final six holes. "You can't be 18-for-18 on greens in regulation so you have to be solid in your short game," Westfall said. "Even though Josh missed some greens, he still had good opportunities to get up and down or even hole out with a chip or two, but it just wasn't meant to be."

Scores



MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston 5
Cleveland 3

Texas 5
Tampa Bay 4

Chicago 15
Baltimore 0

Kansas City 5
Toronto 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Houston 6
Florida 1

St. Louis 5
Atlanta 1



NBA

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
(Best of 7 series)
Eastern Conference

New Jersey 94
Detroit 79
(Series tied 2-2)

TV GUIDE

	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
18:00	Popular Mechanics for Kids/ Liberty's Kids	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	Totally NASCAR/ NHL 2Night	Mr. Nice Guy 17:00
19:00	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 19:30	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
20:00	ESPNNews/ Headline News	Sharing the Secret	ESPNNews/ Baseball Tonight 20:20	The Simpsons/ The Cosby Show
21:00	8 Simple Rules.../ The Bernie Mac Show	Dinner with Friends 21:45	NBA Fastbreak/ Baseball Tonight	American Idol
22:00	America's Next Top Model		MLB - Toronto Blue Jays @ Kansas City Royals	Star Trek: Next Generation